B.   AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for processing an electronic
     voting message, said method comprising:
     compiling a voter data list that includes a plurality of
           authorized voters;
     sending the voter data list to a mail forwarding service,
           wherein the mail forwarding service sends one or more
           vote requests to one or more of the plurality of
           authorized voters;
     receiving the electronic voting message from a client;
     determining, based on the voter data list, whether the
           client is authorized to vote;
     in response to determining that the client is authorized to
           vote, performing the following:
           removing an identity of the client from the electronic
                 voting message, wherein the removing results in
                 an anonymous message; and
           identifying one or more votes in the anonymous
                 message[[.]]; and
     in response to determining that the client is not
           authorized to vote, disregarding the electronic voting
           message.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim [[2]]
     1 further comprising:
     sending a confirmation message to the client, the
           confirmation message including a summary of the
           determination.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim [[2]]
       1 wherein the determining further comprises:
       retrieving the identity of the client; and
       comparing the identity of the client to one or more of the
            plurality of authorized ~~identifiers~~ voters retrieved
            from [[a]] the voter data ~~store.~~ list.

5.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein one
       of the votes includes a freeform comment.

6.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further
       comprising:
       modifying a total number of votes, the modifying further
            including:
            adding the one or more votes to the total number of
                 votes.

7.   (Original) The method as described on claim 6 further
       comprising:
       sending the total number of votes to a receiving server,
            wherein the receiving server is adapted to include the
            total number of votes with other received votes.

8.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
       electronic message is selected from the group consisting of
       a phone-in message, a private client email message, a
       public client email message, a hypertext transfer protocol
       message, a computer network message, an Active X message,
       and a Java message.

9.   (Currently Amended) An information handling system
       comprising:
       one or more processors;

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a memory accessible by the processors;

one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the
        processors;

an electronic voting message handling tool to manage an
        electronic voting message stored on one of the
        nonvolatile storage devices, the electronic voting
        message handling tool including:

means for compiling a voter data list that includes a
        plurality of authorized voters;

means for sending the voter data list to a mail forwarding
        service, wherein the mail forwarding service sends one
        or more vote requests to one or more of the plurality
        of authorized voters;

means for receiving the electronic voting message from a
        client;

means for determining, based on the voter data list,
        whether the client is authorized to vote;

means for removing an identity of the client from the
        electronic voting message in response to determining
        that the client is authorized to vote, wherein the
        removing results in an anonymous message; [[and]]

means for identifying one or more votes in the anonymous
        message[[.]]; and

means for disregarding the electronic voting message in
        response to determining that the client is not
        authorized to vote.

10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended) The information handling system claim
      as described in claim [[10]] 9 further comprising:

means for sending a confirmation message to the client, the
  confirmation message including a summary of the
  determination.

12. (Currently Amended) The information handling system claim
as described in claim [[10]] <u>9</u> wherein the means for
determining further comprises:
means for retrieving the identity of the client; and
means for comparing the identity of the client to one or
  more <u>of the plurality of</u> authorized ~~identifiers~~ <u>voters</u>
  retrieved from [[a]] <u>the</u> voter data ~~store.~~ <u>list.</u>

13. (Original) The information handling system claim as
described in claim 9 wherein one of the votes includes a
freeform comment.

14. (Original) The information system handling claim as
described in claim 9 further comprising:
means for modifying a total number of votes, the means for
  modifying further including:
    means for adding the one or more votes to the total
    number of votes.

15. (Original) The information system handling claim as
described in claim 14 further comprising:
means for sending the total number of votes to a receiving
  server, wherein the receiving server is adapted to
  include the total number of votes with other received
  votes.

16. (Original) The information system handling claim as
described in claim 9 wherein the electronic message is
selected from the group consisting of a phone-in message, a

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private client email message, a public client email
message, a hypertext transfer protocol message, a computer
network message, an Active X message, and a Java message.

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored in a
computer operable media for managing an electronic voting
message, said computer program product comprising:
   means for compiling a voter data list that includes a
        plurality of authorized voters;
   means for sending the voter data list to a mail forwarding
        service, wherein the mail forwarding service sends one
        or more vote requests to one or more of the plurality
        of authorized voters;
   means for receiving the electronic voting message from a
        client;
   means for determining, based on the voter data list,
        whether the client is authorized to vote;
   means for removing an identity of the client from the
        electronic voting message in response to determining
        that the client is authorized to vote, wherein the
        removing results in an anonymous message; [[and]]
   means for identifying one or more votes in the anonymous
        message[[.]]; and
   means for disregarding the electronic voting message in
        response to determining that the client is not
        authorized to vote.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as
     described in claim [[18]] 17 further comprising:

means for sending a confirmation message to the client, the
confirmation message including a summary of the
determination.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as
described in claim [[18]] 17 wherein the means for
determining further comprises:
means for retrieving the identity of the client; and
means for comparing the identity of the client to one or
more of the plurality of authorized identifiers voters
retrieved from [[a]] the voter data store. list.

21. (Original) The computer program product as described in
claim 17 wherein one of the votes includes a freeform
comment.

22. (Original) The computer program product as described in
claim 17 further comprising:
means for modifying a total number of votes, the means for
modifying further including:
means for adding the one or more votes to the total
number of votes.

23. (Original) The computer program product as described in
claim 22 further comprising:
means for sending the total number of votes to a receiving
server, wherein the receiving server is adapted to
include the total number of votes with other received
votes.

24. (Original) The computer program product as described in
claim 17 wherein the electronic message is selected from
the group consisting of a phone-in message, a private

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client email message, a public client email message, a
hypertext transfer protocol message, a computer network
message, an Active X message, and a Java message.